

MAY 28 1959

Chairman Seaborg  
 Commissioner Ramey  
 Commissioner Johnson  
 Commissioner Costagliola  
 Commissioner Thompson

THRU: *for* General Manager(Science) S. G. *Wish*

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Folder <i>General Managers Reading File</i> <i>Sept. 16 Thru 30, 1949</i>	

## CURRENT MEDICAL STATUS OF MARSHALLESE

Dr. Robert Conard of the Medical Department of Brookhaven National Laboratory, on returning from his annual medical examination of the Marshallese exposed to fallout following the March 1, 1954, test at Bikini, has reported the data summarized in the enclosed table. Retrospective estimates of the internal dose to the thyroids from absorbed radioiodines add 600 to 1400 rems to the 175 rad external dose. Analogous internal doses for the fourteen Marshallese (six children and eight adults) who happened to be on nearby Ailinginae Atoll at the time of fallout are not available.

Dysfunction of the thyroid gland continues to appear in these people at rates far greater than would appear by chance. Dr. Conard will provide continued medical surveillance of the Marshallese with the concurrence of the newly appointed High Commissioner, the Honorable Edward E. Johnston, and the assistance of the staff of the Trust Territory and Brookhaven National Laboratory.

As indicated in the enclosed table, it is planned that three children and one adult (plus an interpreter) will go to Brookhaven for evaluation and possible surgery, probably in August. A public announcement concerning the status of the Marshallese may be prepared by Brookhaven at that time.

## BEST AVAILABLE COPY

D/C - Navy - Re-Settlement, Bikini Atoll

John R. Totter, Director  
 Division of Biology and Medicine

## Enclosure:

Data on Medical Survey *To Files*

cc: Secretariat (2)

GM (2)

AGMRD

PI

BMA

BMA

*PCA*

ADA

Dep. Dir.

H. A. Stanwood / J. B. Storer

OFFICE	5/27/69 ADMHR	5/27/69 DIRECTOR	5/1/69 AGMRD	5/1/69 EAGM/DGM	5/28 GM
SIGNATURE	HDBruner:pwg	JRTotter	S. G. English	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
DATE	5/27/69	5/27/69	5/1/69	5/1/69	5/1/69

I. Young Rongelapese exposed to fallout (175 rads external dose plus 600 to 1400 rem internal), March 1, 1954, when they were:

1 to 8 years of age - Total - 19

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| 1. Currently normal by clinical and biochemical tests.   | 2 (11%)  |
| 2. Currently hypothyroid with minimal nodularity. Responding satisfactorily to oral thyroid hormone therapy.   | 3 (16%)  |
| 3. Have undergone surgery because of nodular thyroids; histologic diagnoses of adenomatous goiter and Hurthle cell tumor. Responding satisfactorily to oral thyroid hormone therapy. | 11 (58%) |
| 4. Recent development of nodules in the thyroid; will go to Brookhaven for evaluation and possible surgery.  | 3 (16%)  |

(None of six Ailinginae children exposed to external dose of 70 rad have shown thyroid dysfunction.)

II. Surviving adult Rongelapese exposed to fallout:

Total - 34

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Papillary carcinoma removed surgically at age 41. No recurrence. Taking oral thyroid hormone therapy. | 1 |
| 2. Small nodule at age 40 which disappeared under oral thyroid hormone therapy.                          | 1 |
| 3. Rough mass in one lobe at age 36; will go to Brookhaven for evaluation and possible surgery.          | 1 |

III. Surviving adult Ailinginae people exposed to fallout (70 rads external dose):

Total - 8

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Adenomatous goiter removed at age 45. Recovered and on thyroid therapy but died of influenza in 1968. | 1 |
|--|---|

DOE ARCHIVES

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

Sept. 19, 1969

To: Chairman Seaborg  
Commissioner Ramey  
Commissioner Johnson  
Commissioner Thompson  
Commissioner Larson

→ General Manager

The enclosed memorandum closes by stating that the Public Relations Office of Brookhaven plans a public statement when the diagnoses are confirmed. Upon receipt of the memorandum by my office and subsequent discussion with John Harris, DPI, he arranged to have the proposed public release sent to Hqs by BNL so that its issuance may be properly considered; and so that a letter may be sent to the JCAE before any release. That letter will be coming through shortly.

*S.G. English*  
S.G. English  
AGMRD

Enclosure:  
Memo re Medical Findings  
on Marshallese  
Office of the General Manager

**DOE ARCHIVES**